the latest ISSUE

volume three
issue four

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SACRAMENTO'S NEWS MAGAZINE FOR THE GAY COMMUNITY AND ITS FRIENDS

Rights Bill Goes to Governor

Despite the uncertain last minute threat of backroom deals relating to new potential amendments, Assembly Bill 101 -- the gay rights fair employment bill -- sailed through the state Senate on Wednesday, September 11, passing by a comfortable margin of 25-10.

by **Stacy Selmants**

The bill, which would add the words "sexual orientation" to current nondiscriminatory fair employment statutes is expected, at press time, to receive the necessary concurrent votes in the Assembly to send the bill on to the Governor for his signature or veto. (The bill, after passing in the Senate must go back to the "house of origin" for approval of amendments made in the Senate.)

The Assembly is expected to address the bill either Thursday, September 12 or Friday, September 13, prior to the Legislature adjourning for the year. After the expected concurrence, Governor Wilson -- who has taken tremendous heat from both legislative members of his party and from the public -- is keeping mum about what he will do, and has until October 13 to either sign, veto, or let the bill become law without his signature.

Staff from the LIFE lobby, sponsor of the bill, have been bombarding Wilson's office daily with signed postcards from supportive constituents, to contrast the calls and letters from opponents, such as the Traditional Values Coalition (TVC).

If the Governor does give in to political pressure (for most Capitol insiders note that political realities, not philosophical differences would be the primary force for any potential veto of the bill) AB 101 would die. There are simply not enough "aye" votes in both houses to provide the two thirds majority needed for a veto override.

Supporters of AB 101, including President Pro Tem David Roberti, who carried the bill in the Senate, feel that the lack of vocal opposition during the vote from Republican members indicates a greater potential for an eventual signature from the Governor's Office. During an after-vote meeting with reporters, Roberti seemed exhilarated by the vote count, and by the lack of raucous dissent from the Republicans.

"There was a complete dearth of critical speeches. Even Newt Russell was quiet, except to ask procedural questions. I think there were major movements in our favor today, major shifts that can only be interpreted as being encouraging."

When asked whether he would continue to hold meetings with the Governor in order to lobby for his signature, Roberti was realistic.

"Well, I certainly won't stop now. But it's really up to the leading Republicans who supported the bill today to persuade him to sign it. There's only so much a Democratic senator can do with a Republican governor. And there's only so much I can ask the Republican leaders to do. I think you people (gays and lesbians) are the ones to ask them to carry the ball."

Three Republicans voted for the bill: Senate Minority Leader Ken Maddy and Senators Robert Beverly and Becky Morgan. All are moderate Republicans who enjoy Wilson's support. Morgan, who lost a leadership position in retaliation for her key support of the budget compromise back in July, has been a faithful "Wilsonite" despite overt threats from her party's right wing.

Morgan played a pivotal role in the Senate's final vote, after an impassioned, personalized speech about her father's stand against discrimination against gays back in the 60s, in a small New England town.

"I was raised by my father to honor a different kind of God, a God who feels ALL human beings are precious, and that all of them should be allowed to reach their full potential. And I also belong to a party that is against government handouts to people who don't work. And I think it is pure hypocrisy not to protect the rights of all people to work. A 'yes' vote is a pro-job vote, as far as I'm concerned."

Morgan additionally spoke about her days as a school board member in Palo Alto, a district which included "sexual orientation" as part of their affirmative action language 15 years ago. According to Morgan, the district has had no complaints from parents since that time about any gay or lesbian teachers. She fumed about a society where, "It is no longer possible to hang a 'No women need apply,' sign, nor a 'No blacks need apply,' but it is still legal to hang a 'No homosexuals need apply' sign." (She even waved such a sign, much to the surprise of many onlookers in the gallery and the press corps.)

An unexpected surprise was provided by Republicans Ed Davis and Marion Bergeson, who both abstained from voting. Their abstentions were seen as victories by both Roberti and by Laurie McBride of the LIFE lobby. "We worked really hard on Davis to get him to stay away from this bill, so the fact that he abstained was a positive indicator for our side," she said.

Davis, who delivered an eloquent speech on the Senate floor years ago for the predecessor bill, AB 1, which was vetoed by Gov. Deukmejian in 1984, changed his position on this gay rights bill, which according to sources, was prompted solely as a political payback for LIFE's actions leading to the death of two of his bills.

Other supportive speeches were given by Democratic Senators Abe Rosenthal, Milton Marks, Diane Watson, David Roberti, Diane Watson, Barry Keene, Alan Robbins, Gary Hart, and Wadie Deddeh, an Iraqi-born citizen, who rose to speak, after being moved by Morgan's soliliquy to the Senate.

Continued on page 25

SIGNATURE ON AB101 * 445-2841 CALL FOR A SIGN
CALL FOR A SIGNATURE ON AB101 * 445-2841 CALL FOR A
CALL FOR A SIGNATURE ON AB101 * 445-2841 CALL FOR A SIGNATURE ON AB1
101 * 445-2841 CALL FOR A SIGNATURE ON AB101

The Rainbow Festival committee continues its drive for funds to benefit Hope House and the Lambda Community Center with an **Auction, October 3 at the Mercantile Saloon** at 7 p.m. Auctionable items are needed, so if you have items to donate contact Richard or Shannon at 392-4048.

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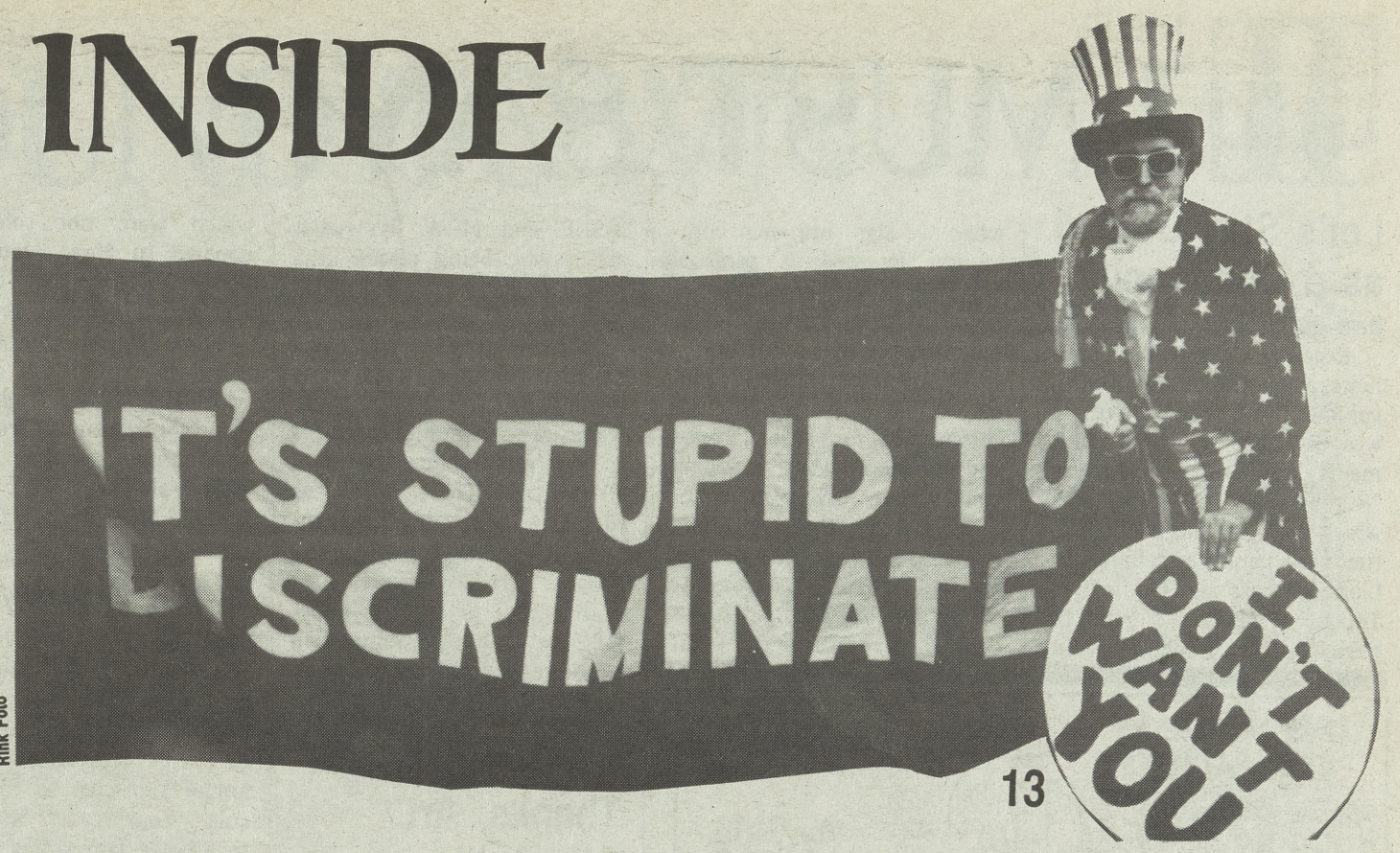

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really !! I MUST SAY!

Let's Stay Unified as a Community

Dear Editor,

Recently I was reading your newspaper, the latest ISSUE, volume three, issue three. I was disturbed by some comments made in the article "Rumor Has It." The area which brought me concern is the statements pertaining to Lioness Books and Moment of Touch. I think it's good to have healthy competition, but when we slam our own community by making personal judgements (or personal questions) of a proprietor, this is not newsworthy information.

To my understanding Lioness Books has served our community for several years and in many ways including employment. Every merchant censors items that are going to be sold, in the case of Moment of Touch, it may be oils or jewelry, for Lioness it's books. In regard to the latest ISSUE and MGW, it's what articles are being placed in a newspaper. This is called business.

With today's continued negativity from external views toward us, I feel the last thing we as a community need, is to de-unify our internal strengths. There is always room for improvement, expansion in view, thought and actions. These changes may or may not occur, but hopefully we as a community will continue to support each other and stay unified.

Sincerely,
Julie Michael

Thanks, Art Attack II!

Dear Editor,

On behalf of myself, staff, and residents of Sacramento's Hope House, I wish to thank Dexter Smith and all the generous donors for their donations to Art Attack II.

Art Attack II is an art auction which benefits Hope House. Approximately $3,000 was raised. The art pieces which were not sold were donated to Hope House and are now displayed on the first and second floors.

Hope House continues to serve the needs of persons with AIDS/ARC through generous contributions from the community.

With Gratitude,
Rev. Ed Sherriff
Director, Hope House

Block Bigotry

Dear Editor,

I don't like "religious" TV programming which blasts gays and lesbians. Switching to Pacific West Cable I'm no longer subjected to their ridicule. Your readers may want to change companies or have Sacramento Cable "block" religious programming in their receiver.

Jerome Murphy

"Keep Abortion Safe & Legal"

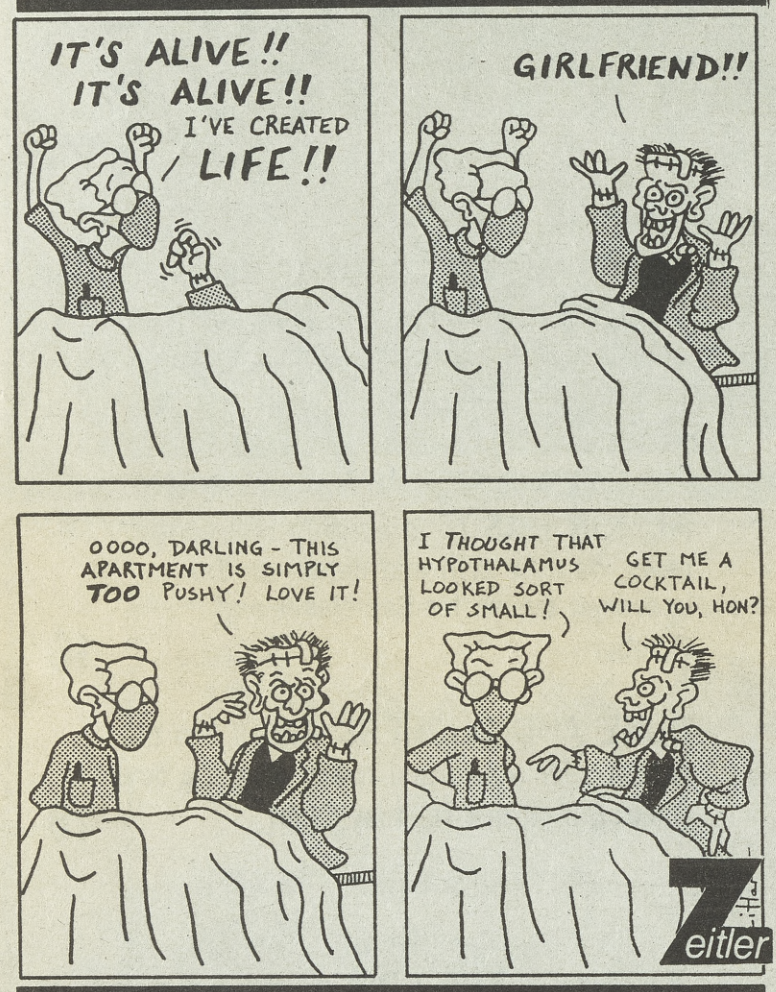
Dear Editor,

Planned Parenthood of Sacramento Valley will be ending their signature campaign to "Keep Abortion Safe & Legal" on October 16, 1991. It was on this date in 1916, our founder, Margaret Sanger opened the very first family planning clinic in the Brownsville area of Brooklyn. Although the clinic was opened less than 30 days when Margaret was arrested, indicted and refusing to pay a fine spent 30 days in the Queens County Penitentiary, her heroic efforts and philosophy endure to this day.

It is a conservative estimate that over 200,000 women sacrifice their lives by terminating unwanted pregnancies where abortion is illegal. We are now seeing the results of the anti-choice movement in states such as Louisiana and Utah where the most restrictive abortion laws in our country will endanger the lives of American women. The effects of this injustice may ripple into the lives of every American if we do not take a stand now. If we are to remain a free society, reproductive freedom and freedom of "choice" must prevail and it is WE who believe so that must secure this important basic human right.

With the current political fever of reproductive freedom, we would like to gather 30,000 more signatures by October 16th. If any of your readers would like to assist us in our signature gathering efforts, we would welcome anyone interested to stop by any Planned Parenthood office, sign our "Keep Abortion Safe & Legal Campaign," pick-up blank forms, make copies and help us gather signatures from friends and family. Now is the time to protect life and dignity for yourself, for your loved ones and for future generations. I would welcome all calls from those committed to protect "freedom of choice."

Denise Evangelista
Public Affairs Coordinator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AROUND TOWN

Weekend Rainbow Festival A Big Success

by **Stacy Selmants**

Partly a fundraiser, partly a celebration, and partly a deodorant endurance test for the thousands of participants -- the 4th annual Rainbow Festival, held at Faces over the Labor Day Weekend, was a very hot event, in EVERY sense of the word.

Battling large, friendly but rowdy crowds, and surviving the hellish heat were the only real downsides in a three day party to raise money for the financially strapped Lambda Center and for the Hope House hospice serving people with AIDS.

Featuring: a drag/leather kickoff starring Stacey and Jo Tierney as emcees; midnight shows starring Bonnie Pointer

Suzanne Jones

Bonnie Pointer.

and comedian Lois Bromfield; an all day street fair; and of course, the opportunity to cruise the crowds until your eyes fell out, the Fair attracted at least 6,000 participants over the four days. (The crowd estimates vary since many people arrived on Thursday and seemed to camp out the entire weekend.)

Estimates for the funds raised also vary, since the fundraising continues with raffle ticket sales, and an auction to be held at the Mercantile. The weekend total alone is estimated at $10,000.

Richard & Large Marge.

The Festival's kickoff was held in Faces' Video Room on Thursday, August 29, and featured crowd pleasing performances by Madonna clone Chelsea, and (according to Stacey) "the most talked about bitch in town," Miss Felicia. Lady Garnet, the new Empress, also performed a country western tune in a surprisingly tasteful pink gown and new wig. (No, there are STILL no winners in the Tasteful Drag Queen Contest!)

Other performers included "Sacramento's own Liza" who vamped through "New York, New York"; Stacey the co-host, who did "I Will Survive" wearing a festive red wig; Whitney wanna-be Racine, (getting close in the tasteful department) and former Emperor Paul, who did a nice butch turn with "La Bamba."

Mama & Patty Pardue.

Jo Tierney ("The Tongue") sexily strutted her leather stuff, opening the show from atop the bar, and turning in later performances, stripping down and making light of a weight gain, saying that "I'm now in competition with Large Marge."

the latest ISSUE raises funds for local NCOD campaign.

But by many accounts, Large Marge ran away with the show with her version of "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair" from **South Pacific**, complete with shampoo lather, when she whipped off her frothy wet wig to shake it at the hysterical audience.

> The weekend total alone is estimated at $10,000.

She had competition, however, from new entry on the local drag circuit Warren Michaels, a provocative number deemed by Stacey to be "a body without a mind," and by Jo as "the one drag queen who makes me WET." Besides her see-through outfit and frothy blonde wig, Warren's sense of humor was also a hit as she regaled the crowd with blonde jokes.

"My goal is to become a veterinarian... because I LOVE children." As a new twist to the standard lip synching, two people actually sang. Gene offered a rather painfully off-key version of (but then, so does Dylan) "Knocking On Heaven's Door." But as a nice surprise, Janice Gimbel did sweet melodic justice to Bette Midler's "From A Distance," and received a hearty ovation.

While the performers "sang" Chantal hustled raffle tickets, with the proceeds also going to the designated charities. The winner, "Dimpled Don" Frazier graciously donated his $50 prize back to the Hope House/Lambda Center fund.

The following night, Bonnie Pointer -- one third of the Pointer Sisters -- wowed the crowd in the tent set up in the parking lot with a brief act encompassing two solo songs, including sixties classic "Sugar Pie, Honey Bunch" followed by three Pointer Sisters classics, including "Jump" and "I'm So Excited."

Dressed in a raging blonde wig, Nancy Sinatraesque mini-dress and "Come, jump me boots" that Large Marge openly coveted, Pointer was a crowd favorite, despite the abbreviated play list. (But considering the cover charge was only $5, the crowd got its money's worth.) As a strange

Men's chorus booth.

side note, a number of disco-impaired lesbians in the crowd were overheard murmuring, "Is she a drag queen?" (Wardrobes can be SUCH a confusing indicator.)

If the show on Friday was abbreviated, the entertainment provided by lesbian comedian Lois Bromfield the following night compensated for it, both in quantity and quality. (For $5, it was the entertainment bargain of the year.) Bromfield, who has become almost the patron saint of the Rainbow festival, has played to overwhelming audience response for the last three years, and seems to love both the "family" atmosphere and the relaxed rules of playing to an audience that adores and understands her humor.

During patented sections of her act, such as the now

Sara Myers

Laurie, wet T-shirt winner!

infamous parody of horror flicks, "Sorority Girls From Hell," where she explains her reasons for not attending college, the audience chanted along with her, as nerdy Irma Munson stalked the sorority girls who shunned her, culminating in a shrieking, yet strangely hilarious, mass murder.

Another signature piece, from which she is evolving, is The Debbies, which is less affecting, since she no longer colors her hair to the platinum glow-in-the-dark shade of past shows, and is content with its natural light brown shade. (Bromfield was the originator of the trendy new blonde jokes.) She did a peppy version of The Debbies Meet the Texas Highway Patrol, which led to the Debbies in the Miss California Contest, wearing dildoes, and saying lame things such as, "The capital of Wyoming is...W!"

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FESTIVAL

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A real test for a comedian is the ability to ad lib and the ability to work the crowd, even the hecklers, and Bromfield was an expert at both. Despite the reality of playing to a tent filled to the brim with sweaty, half-drunk people, Bromfield had fun with the audience, never lost her composure, "Step on my forehead, it's okay!" and reached out to bring people into her act. She also was frank about her affection for playing "herself" to gay and lesbian audiences, despite the economic risks of turning her back on "mainstream" success. (Bromfield has played the nightclub circuit, including stints on the Carson and Letterman shows.) "I just can't go out there and do jokes about 'my boyfriend' anymore. I mean really...I'm a dyke!"

Bromfield seems to be overcoming the problem, however, and announced a pending project with Tom and Roseanne (Barr) Arnold, "They know I'm a dyke, and they don't care!"

A summary of Bromfield's impact upon the crowd was articulated by a weary Richard Boriolo, the main organizer of the event, "I don't care what we've had to go through, to get this thing going. Tonight, RIGHT NOW, it's worth it."

Sunday's street fair, located on the stretch of 20th Street behind Faces was the final event, and provided an opportunity for over 60 clubs, shops and bars to promote themselves and to raise money. Everything from flyers to fajitas were being hawked by groups as different as the Fairy Godfather Fund and Sacramento Lesbians Creating Change (SLCC).

Other booths were sponsored by disparate groups such as the Townhouse, by political groups such as the River City Democratic Club, and CAPPAC, by cultural groups from the African American and Latin communities, by AIDS support groups, the Lambda Players, by MGW and by the latest ISSUE, which sold Coming Out merchandise to benefit the local festivities on October 11, and even by the local libertarian candidate for Tim Leslie's 1st Assembly District seat. There were entertainers in the tent all day long, as well as tables sponsored by business and groups, and of course, the very popular beer truck, which became even more crowded as the temperature nudged the century mark. The tent was also the scene of the wet jockey shorts and wet T shirt contest (my personal Big Mistake.)

Wet jockey shorts line up.

Both contests featured over a dozen contestants, predominantly filled with a sense of greed (cash prizes were involved) and often, several quarts of beer. I did not stay to watch the boys parade their buns (and other parts) after humiliating myself in the T shirt contest. Apparently, perky 30ish mammaries cannot compete with youthful C-cups. I lost (by a large margin) to my nemesis from the Russian River contest of 1990 -- Laurie. I crawled off into the sunset, muttering "Never again." Until, of course, next year.

Havin' fun at the fair.

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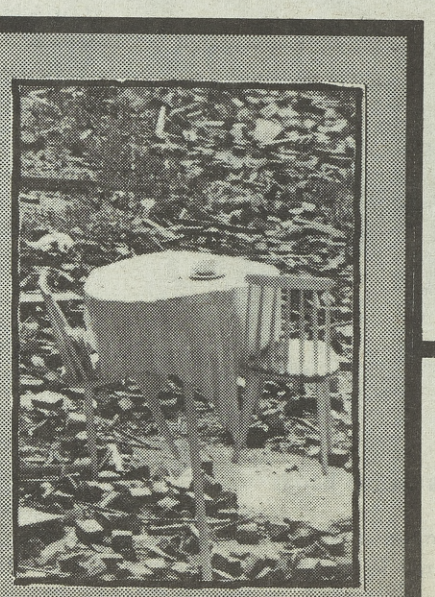

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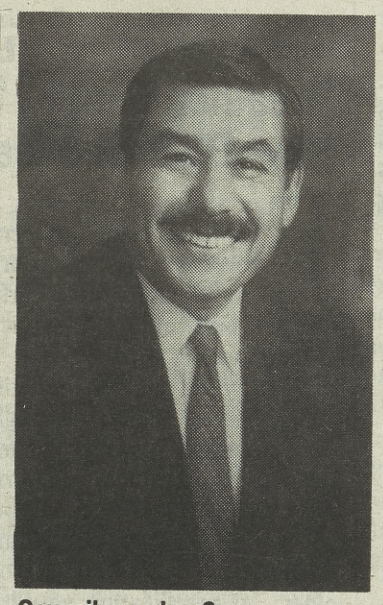
Councilman Serna Speaks at RCDC Meeting

by **Stacy Selmants**

City Councilmember Joe Serna spoke at a recent meeting with gays and lesbians about redistricting, and the need for coalition building, while reminding the group, "You haven't always been there for me, but I'll always be there for you."

Serna, a Democrat whose 5th Council district encompasses such disparate communities as Oak Park, Franklin Boulevard and Curtis Park, was primarily invited to the August 19th meeting of the River City Democratic Club to be lobbied for his support of a proposed redistricting plan formulated by the club. The plan, one of three which have been submitted to the City Council for review and approval, would redraw district lines to realign the downtown and midtown areas into one district, creating a higher concentration of gays and lesbians, and setting the stage for an eventual "gay district." Other groups that have submitted plans are the Sacramento Old City Association (SOCA) and the Sacramento African-American and Latino Redistricting Coalition (SAALRC).



Councilman Joe Serna.

In addition to creating an opportunity for an openly gay candidate to gain a seat on the Council, the proposed redistricting could also have a severe impact upon Councilmember Josh Pane's political future if the boundaries were moved westward away from his safe "old boy" East Sacramento power base to include the gentrified Midtown area (Lavender Heights) as well as the less well-heeled areas west of 16th Street, such as Alkali Flats. (Pane is the lone Republican on the "non-partisan" City Council.) Currently the area west of Alhambra Boulevard is represented by two members: Heather Fargo and Tom Chinn.

Serna did not offer any formal promises of support for any of the plans, but has previously indicated his disdain for SOCA. And, since the SAALC, representing the interests of people of color, parallels one of his main constituencies, and is also seeking greater minority representation on the Council, it is likely that he will give that group's plan a greater degree of support.

One of Serna's themes during the meeting was the downslide of the Democratic Party. He bemoaned the loss of the "lib-

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Police Get Gay Sensitive

by **Josephine Nosnibor**

The commission charged with training and credentialing police officers has agreed to include sexual orientation sensitivity training, and has put together an advisory committee to develop the curriculum.

The Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, better known as the POST Commission, promulgates regulations and develops standards of training for peace officers, including police officers, prison guards, sheriffs, and other related local and state officers engaged in enforcing the law and keeping the peace.

POST agreed to expand its training curriculum after requirements for POST to include sexual orientation sensitivity training appeared in a provision of Senate Bill 1975, by democratic state Senator David Roberti of Los Angeles.

Although the bill has not yet been signed into law, the Commission decided nevertheless to pursue the establishment of an advisory committee, which will develop a curriculum and a strategy for implementing it.

The advisory committee had its first meeting August 27 in San Diego, with eight committee members representing Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego.

"Successful would be the operative word in all of this," Ken Topper, aide to Senator Roberti, said of the committee's first meeting. Topper is representing the Senator's office on the advisory committee.

Also participating on the advisory committee is a representative of San Francisco democrat Assembly Member John Burton's office. Leanna Dawydiak, a straight police officer, also attended the meeting. Dawydiak is presently serving as administrative assis-

Continued on page 8

Metropolitan Community Church

Twenty Years Young

by **Tom Romanotto**

River City Metropolitan Community Church celebrated 20 years of ministry to the gay and lesbian community on September 6, 7 and 8th.

In 1971, Sacramento's MCC began holding services with just 13 members in attendance. On Labor Day of that same year, the members were officially chartered as Sacramento's own Metropolitan Community Church, and has grown to over 300 members attending their weekly worship services.

In 1974 the church purchased the Oddfellows building at 34th and Broadway and in 1990 they purchased the connecting Bank of America building. MCC has grown internationally as well, with hundreds of churches throughout this country and in 14 other countries around the world.

Rev. Freda Smith, pastor of the River City Metropolitan Communtity Church and vice moderator of the MCC Foundation, has been involved with the church since its beginning and became Sacramento's official pastor 19 years ago. Freda was raised in the Church of the Nazarene and joined the Salvation Army as a teenager where she received her training. Of course, be-

Continued on page 12

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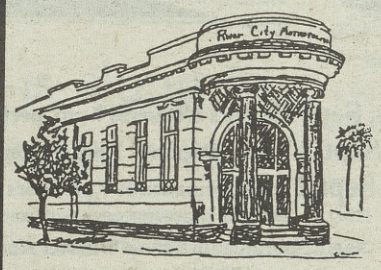

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BMX Celebrates First Year

Sacramento's Black Men's Exchange celebrated its first anniversary September 7 at the Women's Civic Improvement Club.

The Black Men's Exchange (BMX) was founded by Cleo Manago as an organization to support Black men who love men and the cultural and personal issues that surround them.

The BMX headquarters is in Oakland, with clubs in Los Angeles, San Jose, Denver Colorado, Minneapolis Minnesota, with Sacramento being the newest.

Joe Hawkins, organizer of the Sacramento BMX was excited about the success of BMX's first year and expressed his hopes for the future, "the support for (Sacramento) BMX has been wonderful, it is a place where black men can share their lives with one another."

The pro-black stance of BMX has brought many Black men out of the closets and into the streets. According to founder Cleo Manago in the premier issue of *Alternative*, "The opposite of pro-black is anti-black. We're not anti anybody else."

For more information on Sacramento BMX, call 454-0516 and ask for Lonnie.

AIDS Response Program Recruits

As part of a continuing commitment to provide AIDS education to the local community, the Lambda Community Center is recruiting gay and bisexual men, and youth, to become outreach volunteers.

The Lambda Center's AIDS Response Programs are funded by a grant from the County of Sacramento. Safer sex outreach is one component of these programs, the stated purpose of which is "to reduce HIV transmission among gay/-bisexual men, and youth, in Sacramento County."

Out reach training are held bi-monthly at the Lambda Community Center at 1931 L Street. The next training will be held September 24. For more information, call the Center at 442-1085.

"Leather First" New BBS Service

For those of you with a computer and modem there is a new game in in town; Sacramento's first Leather bulletin board service called "Leather First."

When you call the bulletin board service (BBS) through your computer modem, you are required to fill out a questionnaire and within 96 hours you will be validated by the system operators as being 18 years or older. After validation you are able to converse freely on the board and enter any of the "rooms" in the system.

Computer bulletin board services (BBS) are not new to the Sacramento area, but this is the first one exclusively for those into the leather scene.

Leather First also plans to have monthly parties with an interesting group of men and women into various specialties.

The questionnaire on this BBS is a little more explicit than on some of the others. If you're into a specific scene, it should not be difficult to find exactly what you're looking for from this group. The modem number for the Leather First BBS is (916) 974-1262.

5th Annual Toilet Ball Scheduled

The Sacramento Sisters of Impetuous Indulgence in conjunction with the Fairy Godfathers Fund present the 5th Annual Toilet Ball.

This "Tacky Drag Show" will be held at Joseph's Town & Country Show Room on Saturday, September 21 at 8:00 p.m., doors open at 7:00 p.m.

There will be a 50/50 raffle with the proceeds going to the Fairy Godfathers Fund. Cost for the event is $8.00 at the door.

Open Road to Perform Benefit

Open Road, a country western band based in Sacramento, will be holding its 2nd annual benefit for the Hand-To-Hand Project on October 5, at the 24th Street Theater at 8 p.m. Tickets are $10 and will be available at the door or in advance through the Sacramento AIDS Foundation.

Last year, the band raised $1,800 for this Project which matches individuals stricken by AIDS with qualified, support volunteers. Hand-To-Hand is a division of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation.

POLICE

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tant to John Burton. "It was a very productive meeting," said Dawydiak. "We did a lot of brainstorming...I think it was great that I was there, because you know, I've been through all the training. I know how they (peace officer trainees) will react."

The committee identified various issues which members believe should be included in the POST sensitivity training, including the diversity of the community, hate crimes, AIDS, domestic violence, lifestyles, relationships with the straight community, relationships between gay and straight officers among other topics.

Topper said he hopes the sensitivity training will lead to greater self-confidence among lesbians and gay men. "We are a culture in society. We are a working component of our society. We need to demystify this stuff. It's a step in ending discrimination," he said.

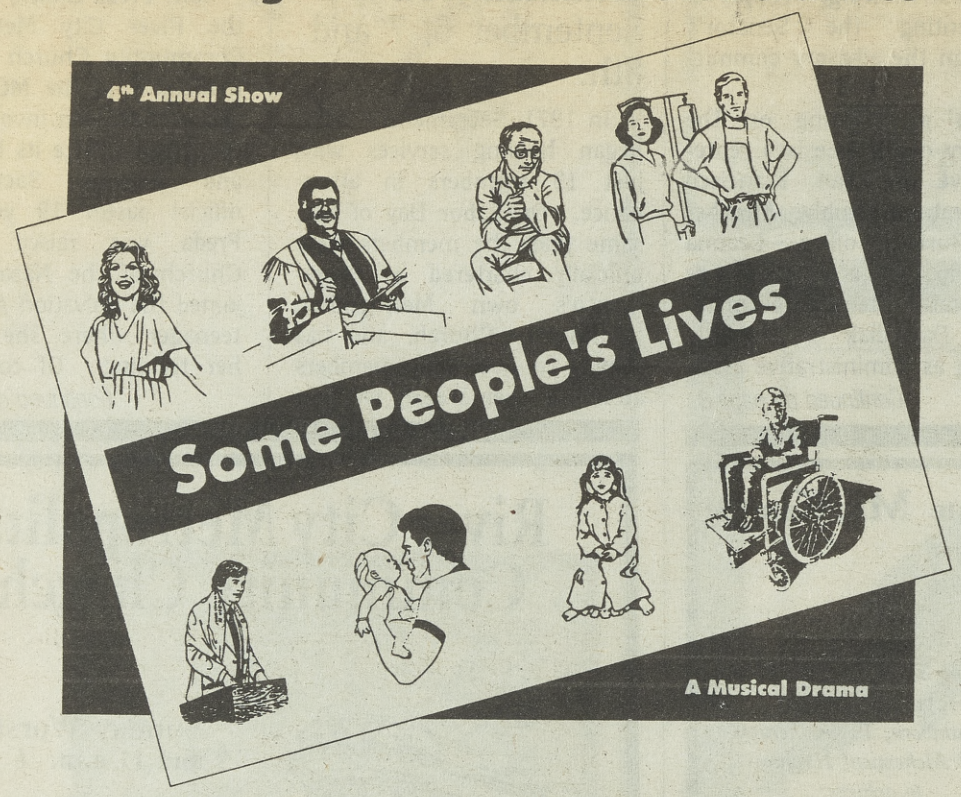
The sensitivity training should also contribute to better police performance, Dawydiak noted. "From a police officer's perspective, I believe the more you know about a situation, the better chances you have of helping the people you've been called out to help," she said. "For example, if police officers are called out to break up a fight between two men, and the officers are aware that this might not be an ordinary fight, but rather a domestic violence situation, the officers would be more likely to refer the participants to appropriate services," Dawydiak said.

"The biggest barrier will be changing trainees' attitudes about taking such a course," she noted. "The average cop thinks they don't need it. They think, 'we don't have any gay people in our community, so what do we need this for,'" she said.

Topper said that the committee is seeking to recruit experts in each of the various issues that need to be addressed. "We want to involve other members of the gay and lesbian community that specialize in the issues addressed in the meeting," Topper said. "We were not confident in answering all the questions, but we were able to develop an agenda. This (committee) is going to grow." he added.

The committee meets again in October. Some members anticipated that the committee will take about one year to complete its job.

Performing Artists for AIDS-Related Charities



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San Francisco's

Gay Tomorrow: Will the Sun Come Out?

by **Henri Donat**

Autumn in San Francisco is like a lover. Heat waves come and go as they please, leaving mixed feelings of warm remembrance and cautious anticipation.

Nowhere are the winds of change more apparent than in the city's gay and lesbian community, where two decades of autumns in the gay movement have passed while the winter of AIDS lingers over an optimistic political future.

Randy Shilts, whose best-selling book "And the Band Played On" chronicled the early history of AIDS in San Francisco's gay community, sees a future marked by both pain and progress. "In the next ten years, we're going to have incredible depth of character," Shilts says, "pain is the touchstone of spiritual evolution. I think even though we'll have a sort of post traumatic stress syndrome comparable to those people who saw a lot of horror in Vietnam, we'll remain even more empowered in San Francisco and that will affect the movement across the nation. Let's face it, AIDS has gotten people involved in gay politics who otherwise would never have gotten involved. These people are forever energized."

Much of the new energy on the streets of San Francisco, as in other major cities, comes from groups like ACT-UP, Queer Nation, and their splinter factions. Brash, bold and predominantly youthful, their traffic-stopping tactics are not always met with approval from within the community power structure.

Here, much of the head shaking comes from "communal parents" like Cleve Jones, founder of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, who objects to a wave of political incorrectness he believes is thankless to the movement's forefathers.

"There's a lot of condescending to what went on in the 70s by young people in groups like Queer Nation," Jones says, "It's really a self-righteous consciousness. Something magic and marvelous happened in the 70s. It was really exciting electing two lesbians to the Board of Supervisors in San Francisco last year, but Harvey Milk was the first. Something can only

Rink Foto

Cleve Jones.

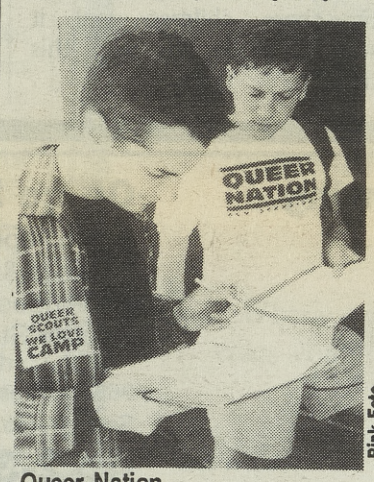
be new for a short time. We had literally millions of people finding themselves and finding each other for the first time after being denied our existence for such a long time. A lot of young people need to understand that the assumptions they base their political views on come from that time, and they owe a great debt to those pioneers."

Other veteran observers like Shilts see individual members of Queer Nation and ACT-UP fast on the horizon of leadership. "In fact," says Shilts, "they'll be called upon to be leaders much more quickly than they imagine."

Outside the political arena, the infusion of queer energy has impacted fashion and the arts -- and the sex lives of gay men.

Tim Vollmer's essays on sexual culture in the gay weekly *Sentinel* are watchwords for trends in gay identity in San Francisco. "ACT-Up and Queer Nation came along and made being gay sexy again," he reports, "They further eroticized the gay identity which had been de-eroticized for a while with the initial shock of AIDS. The result is these youngsters who are awfully gay militant, awfully proud and very, very sexy. They dress well, they take care of their bodies...the entire effect is spectacular. It's as sexual as any in the late 70s or early 80s."

Coinciding with the emergence of new activism, Vollmer says, was aggressive AIDS education and public policy in



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Queer Nation.

the late 80s, which lead to today's "open and re-liberated sex scene."

"San Francisco has always been a couple of years ahead of everybody else in terms of gay culture. New Yorkers come here and they're astounded by the night life. Safe sex education and sound public policy, which are direct results of the power of activism, really made it possible for a sexual culture here that's not AIDSphobic and not based in fear, but rather open."

But with annual studies that young gays are still seroconverting at alarming rates, can this new liberation last into the future? Vollmer says yes. "The fact that new exposures are occurring is one of the reasons I'm not completely happy with the sex scene. In spite of that, the consciousness about safe sex is highly developed and used. San Francisco is still one of the safest places to have sex."

"The threat to sexuality when seroconversion continues to happen is that we get stuck in these old issues of monogamy and promiscuity,

Rink Foto

Roberta Achtenberg.

couples vs. non-couples. I'd like to see issues of intimacy discussed more, and I think San Francisco will break the ground in the next ten years for a sexual climate that takes one step further the idea of mixed public and private life, which gays have pioneered. Instead of confining your sexuality where you have one love, you have a fluid sense of lovers, love for friends, community, and the environment."

"Unless this is in place you risk alienation, where people don't matter. In your separate, sexual life you have fantasies that pre-exist and people just jump in and out. Commercialization preys on that vulnerability. It's hard to develop intimacy with a telephone. You're not connecting with another human being by watching a video."

Whether or not the sexual and political influence of ACT-Up and Queer Nation continues to be pervasive in San Francisco remains to be seen. A certainty in the next ten years says Roberta Achtenberg, one of two lesbians elected city supervisor last year, is a vastly larger number of women and people of color in leadership roles within the community.

"In politics, in the arts and in social service agencies there has been an exciting emergence of incredibly talented lesbians and gay men of color who have just gone off the charts in terms of producing thoughtful activism," Achtenberg says, "It's been a relatively successful effort in San Francisco, where women and men have gained equal status in the movement. Having broken down barriers between women and men, we're now seeing the destruction of racial barriers and we'll soon see a corresponding increase in very prominent leadership roles of lesbians and gay men of color."

Multi-ethnic organizations within the larger gay community have trained people of color to cultivate an effective political force. Sometimes minimizing racial differences and unifying members of as many as 19 nationalities, the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance is tapped as the group to watch. "It's the most excellent training you can imagine," says Achtenberg, "Because of the change from minority to majority status in the entire state, people with knowledge of how to overcome racial barriers have the key knowledge in the gay rights movement."

Without question, men and women do seem to be bridging gulfs of understanding in the city more and more. Gay men have come to see abortion rights as "their issue," and lesbians, who have taken leadership roles in many AIDS service agencies in the city, are no strangers to human rights battles.

Continued on page 10

Each week, a bath of internal mud is slung in the pages of the city's two gay newspapers.

FUTURE

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Still, with all this harmony, infighting remains a powerful and destructive problem in many of the city's gay groups.

Recently, the Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club unsuccessfully sought to impeach its president, Jean Harris. At the same time, a co-chair of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade accused parade leadership members of racism, financial mismanagement and verbal abuse, while the city's meals on wheels organization was the subject of a state audit at the urging of a former board member. Each week, a bath of internal mud is slung in the pages of the city's two gay newspapers.

"There's this eagerness to attach derogatory labels on each other," say Shilts, "But the fact is that gay people in San Francisco, no matter how conservative or radical they might be, are not the enemies of the gay movement. There are enough people in the country who would like to see us all dead that we don't need to be fighting each other."

Yet in San Francisco, infighting is inordinately severe, something Achtenberg attributes to gays being raised in oppressive environments and therefore not often equipped to constructively direct newfound power. Simply by the numbers, the city would seem to have a greater mass of gay men and women competing for a piece of the empowerment pie.

Jones takes a harder line. "The infighting is limited to the same 500 people," he says, "working out their personal histories in the political structure. The larger gay community doesn't fight over who they're going to vote for. The destructiveness is limited to the membership rosters of the democratic clubs."

"Much of what these people do is irrelevant to the majority of gay men and lesbians in San Francisco. Most of us are concerned with survival issues, paying the rent, finding jobs, staying alive, finding love. Over the next ten years I'd like to see the community look for an answer for financial self-sufficiency instead of shooting itself in the foot over differences."

Finding innovative ways of organizing is a constant effort. For Tom Ammiano, vice president of the Board of Education, the answer lies in combining the old and the new. "You have to learn from history and look at everything and everybody as a resource in one way or another. It takes a lot of introspection to find out just exactly what's getting in the way. And it takes tenacity."

Not one to let obstacles stand in the way, Ammiano rose to success in local theater as one of the first openly gay comics in San Francisco and was elected to the school board in 1990, ten years after a failed bid for the same board. "My campaign brochure featured Sally Struthers' time-share children and it seemed to do the trick this time."

With an eye to the future of San Francisco's gay and lesbian teenagers, who have a higher rate of suicide than straight kids, Ammiano is a rare, accessible role model. "In San Francisco we really pushed the progressive agenda and somehow, until recently, let gay and lesbian youth fall through the cracks. We all remember what it was like to be gay in high school and it's important to pick up the mantle and work with young people to make sure there is a future."

Where it concerns his night job in local arts and theater, Ammiano says performers will continue to push the conventional envelope in the wake of Mapplethorpe and National Endowment for the Arts controversies of the late 80's.

"For a long time the arts have been controlled by the marketplace. Even though we have Bohemia here which gives us more latitude, there were class, race and gender issues over what was valid artist expression. Strangely enough, through the electronic media, and we hope through an art world more inclusive of people of color and other cultures, the limits of artistic expression should expand. In the next decade, that will make it more controversial and pluralistic. I hope so. That's what keeps the arts electric and exciting in the first place."

With complex issues crossing a myriad of personal, political and social lines, it may seem that gays in San Francisco have a hard row to hoe, but morale remains high. People still find time to dine and dance amid the turbulence.

"It's a very romantic city," Jones says, "Even though we're all basically non-conformists, we're looking to belong in some way. We're looking for answers."

Solutions to the community's challenges are elusive, but gay men and women in San Francisco are, above all, hopeful.

"What we win they have trouble taking away from us," says Shilts, "We'll see the reaction against us grow as we become more successful. There will be more violence. This is all part of working out the conflict within our society against homosexuality, but the truth of the matter is on our side. Ultimately we'll win."

Achtenberg agrees, "The right wing is very powerful. There are always actions and reactions. African Americans have seen this ebb and flow in their movement. But ultimately -- will there be more people who believe that it's right to judge gay people by their personhood rather than by their group label? I think so. In San Francisco it's a safe bet, because of our strength, our stamina and perseverance. You have to be in for the long haul."

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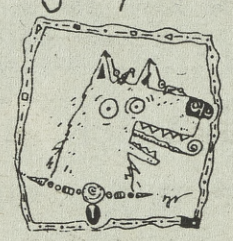

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Biology's Part in Sexual Orientation

The gay community seems divided in its response to the recently published research that suggests that biology may be a determining factor in male homosexuality.

Dr. Simon LeVay, a researcher at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego, studied the brains of 41 cadavers, including 19 gay men who died from complications of AIDS, 16 presumed heterosexual men and 6 presumed heterosexual women, in hope of offering insight to whether there are structural differences in the brain cells of gay and heterosexual men. During the 18 month study LeVay discovered that the segment of the brain, a small cluster of cells in the hypothalamus, that governs sexual behavior was half as large in homosexual men as it was in heterosexual men. "It tells us that sexual orientation is an aspect of human nature that can be studied by biologists; it does not tell us how sexual orientation is determined or when," said LeVay.

LeVay, a gay man, began his research after the death of his lover of 21 years to the AIDS virus. He has always pondered the big question of the origins of homosexuality.

His findings have ignited a great deal of controversy in both the straight and gay communities.

Many in the gay community cheer at the results saying that it validates feelings that they were born gay. Others say it will not help the community if the world at large thinks it is biological, then we can be cured through some type of medical procedure.

"It's an important study. It has to be replicated and expanded," said Dr. Richard

Continued on page 23

Bush Urges Change

by **Chris Narloch**

President Bush continued to urge "behavioral change" to halt the spread of AIDS, and defended his administration's record in dealing with the crisis.

The remarks followed a "die-in" by 1,500 AIDS demonstrators on the road near his vacation home in Kennebunkport, Maine, on September 1st.

The President said he does not agree with the members of ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), when asked by reporters if he "got the

Continued on page 20

Amnesty Passes Gay Resolution

by **Chris Narloch**

Amnesty International passed a resolution on September 5th that will include lesbians and gay men in the group's definition of prisoner of conscience.

The global human rights organization, which has fought for victims of political and religious persecution for the last thirty years, will now take on governments imprisoning lesbians and gay men solely for their sexual orientation.

The vote took place over the course of a seven day conference in Yokohama, Japan during the first week in September. The delegation from A.I. in the U.S. was instrumental in getting the resolution adopted, and the members affirmed their commitment to fight for the human rights of lesbians and gay men around the world.

Before leaving to participate in the International Council Meeting, the Executive Director of Amnesty International U.S.A. reiterated their goal. "The time has come," said John G. Healey, "for Amnesty to live up to its highest ideals, and to take the steps necessary to protect the rights and dignity of all people."

"We hope that we will return from Japan with a solid vote from all the member sections of our international movement on this issue. We want to be able to celebrate with lesbian and gay organizations worldwide the international recognition that the human rights of lesbians and gay men will be fully protected."

Those who want to get involved with A.I. can write to: Amnesty International, 322 Eighth Ave. New York, NY 10001.

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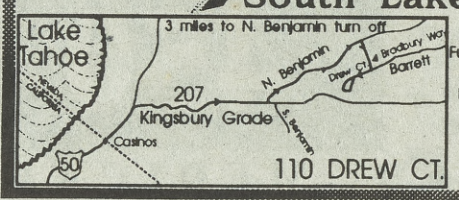

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MCC

continued from page 7

hind every great woman is another great woman, Freda has been with her partner Kathleen, for 17 years.

Our local MCC provides an impressive list of community services, through their AIDS outreach program they provide emergency assistance and medical equiptment to those who are ill. Through their food program and their affiliation with Loaves and Fishes, they provide meals to over a thousand people each month, and serve dinners to those in need during the holidays.

The regular MCC Church services are held on Sundays at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. In addition to the normal church activities and choir, there is a youth group, a fine-arts and drama department, and on Friday nights a non-smoking, non-alcoholic country western dance. In North Hall, (one part of the building) daily Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12 step programs are held.

Even if you do not share the beliefs of those at MCC, the Sacrmaneto gay and lesbian community must acknowledge the history, support and love that this church has given the past 20 years and will continue to provide in the future.

DEADLINES

The editorial deadline for our next issue is October 1st. Camera-ready advertising materials are due by October 5th.

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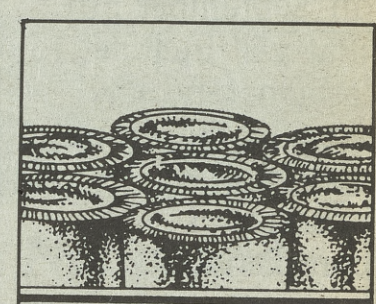
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Lesbian Ouster Unconstitutional

Casting doubt on the constitutionality of the armed forces' ban on homosexuals, a federal court ordered the U.S. Department of Defense to justify its ouster of a lesbian chaplain.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Dusty Pruitt, a former captain in the Army Reserves, is entitled to have a trial court decide "whether the Army's discrimination (in discharging her) is rationally related to a permissible governmental purpose."

Pruitt, who is currently serving as a minister in Long Beach, was discharged in 1986 under a longstanding Army regulation that declares homosexuality to be "incompatible with military service."

She had identified herself as a lesbian in a newspaper interview. However, according to the court's opinion, there was no evidence that she engaged in homosexual acts "or made any advance" toward a soldier. The reason for her discharge was her status, rather than her conduct, the court said.

While the judiciary may not be able to control social prejudices, it cannot put its weight behind them, the high court said.

Gay rights advocates hailed the application of that principle to the military's ban on homosexuals as a significant breakthrough.

Sacramento Bee

Steffan Lawsuit Regains Focus

A federal district judge this month denied a motion to force the government to provide more documents in the Joseph Steffan case, nudging the gay ex-Naval midshipman's landmark legal battle a step closer to judgement.

In his August 1 decision, Oliver Gasch, a senior judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, ended Steffan's lawyers' attempt to force the Department of Defense to release documents relating to an alleged change of policy during the Persian Gulf War with respect to gay soldiers.

Steffan's lawyers had argued that the Pentagon changed its anti-gay regulations and allowed gays to serve during Operations Desert Shield and Storm. Such a change, the lawyers had maintained, would have shown that the anti-gay policy has been "arbitrarily" applied at times and that this "irrational" application would show the folly of the policy.

The case has been tied up on the issues revolving around the document requests for the last few months. Gasch's order will bring the case once again to focus on the main issue behind Steffan's lawsuit: the constitutionality of the military's anti-gay regulations.

Washington Blade

Harvard Cancels AIDS Conference

Harvard University said it will move an international AIDS conference overseas next year, blaming the decision on a ban of AIDS-infected foreigners from entering the United States.

The Harvard AIDS Institute said the Eighth Annual International Conference on AIDS, scheduled to be held in Boston in May, would probably be moved to a European city. The new site was expected to be announced within a month.

"This is a clear statement that we don't feel comfortable with the policy and can't go ahead with it in place," said Max Essex, institute chairman.

Asked about the decision to cancel the conference, President Bush said, "They'll find other ways to get together."

"U.S. immigration policy is an international embarrassment," said actress Elizabeth Taylor, chairwoman of the American Foundation for AIDS Research. "There is no room in this country for discrimination against HIV-positive individuals - be they U.S. citizens or from abroad," she said.

"Losing the conference will mean the loss of an estimated $20 million in revenue for the local economy," said Larry Meehan, of the Greater Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Sentinel

Philip Morris Gives $20,000

The first monies from the Philip Morris boycott settlement started flowing this week, directly into the hands of a Washinton D.C. AIDS service organization.

Food and Friends, a D.C.-based organization which provides meals for home-bound people with AIDS, received a $20,000 check from Philip Morris.

"This is major support," said an ecstatic Carla Gorrell, executive director of the organization. "We can serve so many more people with a donation of that size."

Gorrell, who noted that most of the organization's contributions are from local companies and seldom go above $1,000, said that ACT UP was "deserving of thanks of the community, and persons with AIDS who are receiving services, for making this generous kind of contribution possible."

ACT UP, as well as others who participated in the year-long boycott of Miller beer and Marlboro cigarettes, two Philip Morris products, negotiated a settlement this spring that included a promise from the tobacco giant to substantially increase its corporate donations to community based AIDS organizations.

Washington Blade

Tom Selleck Settles Lawsuit

Tom Selleck has settled his $20 million libel lawsuit against the supermarket tabloid Globe, which published an "article clarified" notation apologizing for implying the actor was gay.

Financial terms of the settlement weren't disclosed.

Selleck filed his $20 million Superior Court suit against the Boca-Raton, Florida-based publication one day after the article appeared in the July 2 issue of the Globe.

"I would normally not comment on a story as ridiculous as this one, but once when I said 'no comment' the reporter printed that I 'refused to deny' the story," Selleck said when the suit was filed.

"So let me make this crystal clear," the former Magnum P.I. star continued. "I have a wife and daughter. I was married once before and raised a son. I am as proud of my sexual preference as those who happen to be gay are of theirs."

Sacramento Bee

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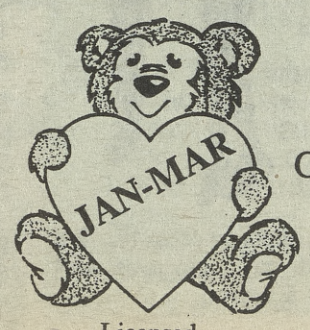

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the daily PLAN-IT

September

13 friday

Cafe Lambda presents an evening of entertainment with the **"Glittering Gals"** from 8pm - midnight at the Lambda Community Center, 1931 L St. For more info call 442-0185

An Evening of Art & Politics with candidate for U. S. Senate, Barbara Boxer, at the Lite Rail Art Gallery, 918 12th St. from 5:30pm - 7:30pm, $50 per person. For more info call 441-3224 or 487-7324.

The Davis Musical Theater Company presents, **Sweeny Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street.** 2121 2nd St in Davis, tickets are $10 for more info call 756-3682.

CSUS Starlight Comedy Cafe presents **Fall Comedy Premiere** at University Union Redwood Room at the CSUS Campus, 7:30 & 10:30 pm. $4.50 -$6 admission.

FRIDAYS

Country Western Dance, 7:30 p.m in the activity center of River City MCC, 34th St and Broadway. For more info call 454-4762.

Cafe' Lambda, a gay and lesbian coffee house featuring selected coffees, deserts, and occasional live entertainment in a smoke free, alcohol free environment. 8pm to midnight at the Lambda Community Center 1931 L Street, 442-0185

14 saturday

1st Annual **Lesbian & Gay Day at Candlestick,** a benefit for the Shanti Project, San Francisco Giants vs San Diego Padres 1:05 pm. upper reserved seats $7.00 for more info call 415) 777-0792

A Tribute Exhibition; works on paper and sculpture by selected Crocker-Kingsley artists on display at the Crocker Art Museum through October 27.

After Business Hours, a half day seminar for business owners at the Sacramento Women's Center, 2306 J St, #200 from 8:30 am - 12 noon. For details call 441-8496.

The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission is sponsoring a free tour of downtown Sacramento's public artwork. Meet at City Hall, 915 I St at 1:30 to begin the tour.

The Imperial Court of the Lion and Red Rose announces: **Barn Dance Celebration for Cowboy/Cowgirl Contest**, benefit CARES, Fairy Godfather Fund and. Sacramento AIDS Foundation. 8pm at Joseph's Town & Country, $3 donation.

SATURDAYS

Egyptian Belly Dance Classes at the Lite Rail Gallery, Beginner: 9:30am - 10:45am, Intermediate : 11am - 12:15pm $45 for 8 classes. 446-0695. **Sept. 14 - Nov. 12.**

15 sunday

Sunday Afternoon Salsa, in the Food Court patio at the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op, 1900 Alhambra Blvd. Live Latin Jazz Band and lots of fun. 2-5pm free!

SUNDAYS

Tea Dance at Faces! 3 - 7 p.m., Free BBQ at 5 p.m., Country Western dancing at 7

"Impulse", the new Gay Bar for 18 years old and over, upstairs at Joseph's Town & Country 649-9248

16 monday

MONDAYS

Men's Coming-Out Group, Co-sponsored by GLAS and the Lambda Community Center 5:30 - 7p.m. For more info call the Lambda Center, 442-0185.

Brother to Brother, HIV+ support group for Black gay/bisexual men. 7:00-9:00pm at 3501 Broadway. For more info call 441-0949.

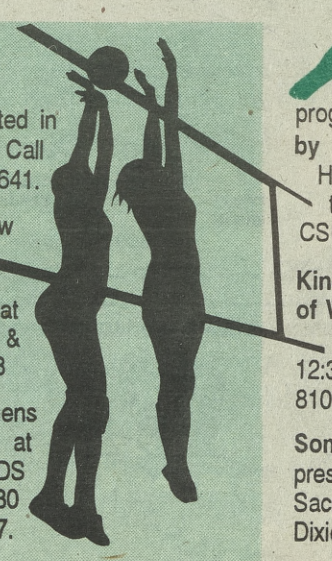
Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian and Gay Concerns meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the social hall at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Mark's Way. For more info call 489-2340

Women's Rap & Social, 7pm at the Lambda Community Center, 1931 L St. For more info call 442-0185

17 tuesday

The Sacramento Chapter of **Parents and Friends of Lesbians & Gays**, will hold their monthly meeting at 7:30pm in the Christian Education Building of St. Mark's United methodist Church, 2391 St. Mark's Way. For more info call 665-1050

TUESDAYS



Volleyball! Interested in playing volleyball? Call Daryl Rice 442-4641.

"Impulse", the new Gay Bar for 18 years old and over, upstairs at Joseph's Town & Country 649-9248

Heart to Heart, mens discussion group at the Sacramento AIDS Foundation from 6:30 - 8:00pm. 448-2437.

Being Gay Today, 10pm on cable 18. One hour of lesbian & gay programs from around the country & beyond.

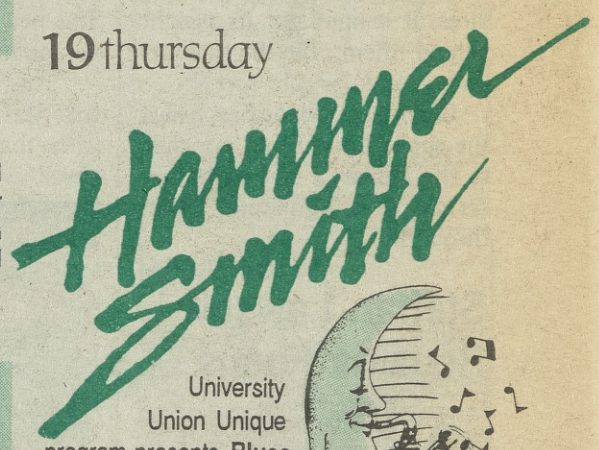
18 wednesday

An Evening of Trance Channeling, 7pm at the Church of Enthusiasm & Joy, 2755 Cottage Way, Suite 11. Inspirational messages will be given and interpreted. For more info call 456-5685.

WEDNESDAYS

"Let's Talk" support group, a.k.a. Queers with Fears, for gay & Bi-men 7pm -8:30 pm (2nd, 4th & 5th Wed. of each month) at CARES, 2710 Capitol Ave. for more info call 443-3299.

19 thursday



University Union Unique program presents **Blues by the Moon** with the Hammer Smith Band on the South Lawn of the CSUS University Union. 7:30 pm free.

Kindred Spirits; Reading on the Subject of Women and Friendship, by the America River College Senior Adult Players at 12:30 pm at Rio Linda Community Center, 810 Oak Lane in Rio Linda.

Some People's Lives, a musical drama presented by PAARC at 8pm in the No. Sacramento School District Office, 670 Dixieanne Ave. For more info call 442-5468

BANG (Business Alliance of Networking Gays) meeting at Joseph's Town & Country, for more info call 457-3269.

October

THURSDAYS

FREE Admission to the Crocker Art Museum from 4 - 9pm. Sept & Oct

Being Gay Today, 9pm on cable 18. One hour of lesbian & gay programs from around the country & beyond.

Women's Coming Out Group, wheelchair accessible, childcare available, 6 -7:30pm at the Lambda Center. For more info call 442-0185.

GLAS (Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Sacramento),meets in the CSUS Social Science building, room 236, 8:30 -10p.m. for more info call 456-3469 or 927-8661.

Being Alive Living Room, 2pm. A HIV + support group sponsored by the Lambda Community Center, 1931 L Street.

20 friday

Lioness Books Presents, a reading and booksigning by the author of "Taken by Storm" Linda Kay Silva. 7 - 9 p.m. at Lioness Books, 2224 J Street. For info call 442-4657.

Cafe Lambda presents an evening of entertainment with **Maggie White**, from 8pm - midnight at the Lambda Community Center, 1931 L St. For more info call 442-0185.

Tuck & Patti in concert at the Crest Theater on the K Street mall at 8:00pm. Tickets $20 available at BASS

SACWN presents an **Intimacy Workshop** by Sonika Tinker MSW and Debra Rain. Call 486-8985 for details.

Randy Travis in concert at the Cal Expo Amphitheater at 7pm. Tickets available through all BASS/TM Outlets, call 923-BASS

Sacramento Opera Association presents **Otello** at the Sacramento Community Center Theater. For ticket info call 449-5181.

Sept 20, 22 & 24.

21 saturday

5th Annual Toilet Ball, at Joseph's Town and Country. Doors open at 7 p.m., show begins at 8 p.m.

Folsom Street Fair one wild event in the center of the gayest city in the world!

22 sunday

Art Auction at the Crocker Art Museum, 10:30am - 3pm at Pavilions on Fair Oaks blvd. For more info call 449-5423

23 monday

"Re-Cycled Series" and "Animal Life" exhibitions of art works by Bryan Tedrick and Reid at the Lite Rail Gallery, 918 12th St. 11am - 5pm.

25 wednesday

Matrix Studio Tour 91. Walk through the studios of 50 local artists. The tour starts at the Matrix Gallery, 1725 I Street. Call for dates and times, 441-4818.

26 thursday

3rd Annual **Lavender Waves Retreat,** for lesbians in all forms of recovery. For more info call 503) 563-3643. **Sept 26 - 29**

The Struggle for Equality in the United States, a presentation by Executive Director of the NAACP, Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks on the University Union South Lawn, CSUS at 11:45 am. FREE

28 saturday

The Sonoma Waves to Wine Bike Tour, to benefit Multiple Sclerosis. For details call 415) 268-0572 or 800-FIGHT MS.

Sept 28 & 29

Clifford Shockney (Piano), and Karla Cave (Soprano) will present a recital of music by Mozart, Chopin, Lizst and popular standards to benefit Hope House at 8pm at the First United Methodist Church, 2100 J St. Admission is $12. For more info call 451- 8084.

SAGA IV Racquetball Tournament at the Midtown Athletic Club. For more info call 446-3129.

Joseph's Town & Country will host the **Miss Leather** Arts, Craft & Leather show from 5pm - 11pm. For more info call 649-9248.

29 sunday

Late 20th Century Chamber Music presented by Music Now at 8pm at the Unitarian Universalist Society Auditorium, 2425 Sierra Blvd. $8 admission. For more info call 922-4455.

2 wednesday

Bill Graham presents: **George Michael, Cover to Cover** in concert at Arco Arena, 8pm. Ticket available at Bass ticket centers, 923-BASS.

3 thursday

The Manhattan Transfer, in concert at the Sacramento Community Center Theater at 8pm Tickets available at all BASS/TM Outlets, 923-BASS.

4 friday

A "T" (Shirt) Dance, SLCC'S first dance for Lesbians & Gay men at the Tuesday Club, 2722 L St from 9pm - 1am. Music by 'Joey', T-shirt contest with prizes. $5 at the door. For more info call 451-0201.

5 saturday

Open Road will be performing at the Sierra II Theater, 2791 24th Street, to benefit Hand to Hand project of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation. $10 donation requested.

The California Vintage Fair, Food & Wine Tasting Event, at the Sutter Square Galleria and Penthouse from 7 - 10 pm. Black-tie optional to benefit performing arts in Sacramento. Sponsored by The Sacramento Bee, $35 per person, for more details call 321-1790.

6 sunday

Castro Street Fair. A party on the gayest street in the world. This is an all day and night event in San Francisco.

10 thursday

CAP/PAC Foundation presents a community forum in celebration of **National Coming Out Day,** at A Shot of Class from 5:30pm - 7:30 pm. $12 in advance, $15 at the door, no host bar, hors d'oeuvres. For more info call 736-2722.

11 friday

National Coming Out Day, Take Your Next Step!

12 saturday

August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-Winning Play **The Piano Lesson** will be presented by 'ACT at the Theatre on the Square, 450 Post St. in San Francisco for ticket info call 415) 433-9500. **Oct 12 - Jan 15, 1992**

New Age Fair, meet the area's best psychics at Planet Earth Rising, 2931 Sunrise Blvd. Suite 125 in Rancho Cordova from 10am - 6pm. for more info call 631- 0249.

13 sunday

Art Auction to benefit the Lambda Community Center, at the Lite Rail Gallery 918 12th St. Call 441-1013 for information.

Wearable Art Auction, at the Matrix Gallery, 1725 I Street. For more information call 441-4818.

17 thursday

Creating Change, West the second annual conference for Lesbian & Gay Californians at the Sheraton-Town House in the Mid-Wilshire District of Los Angeles. For more info call 213) 960-2045. **Oct 17 - 20**

Plan-It In Advance

To list your events in the Daily Plan-it, send a brief description of the event along with any graphic images you may have before the 5th of each month to: **the latest ISSUE**, P.O. Box 160584, Sacramento, CA 95816.

RUMOR HAS IT

As summer changes quickly into fall, Sacramento's gay community is becoming frenzied over the many upcoming events for September and October.

AB101 is in the middle of an apparent tug of war between gay rights activists and the legislators they work for at the capitol. **Rand Martin** of **Assemblyman Friedman's** office isn't sharing and **Ken Topper** of **Senator Roberti's** office is desperate to know what is going on with the bill. **Governor Wilson** and **Friedman** had a meeting August 30 and no one but **Rand, Friedman** and **the Gov.** knows what he said. Come on kids, let's share. Working together we win, alone we just look stupid.

Some people's lives are just too confusing. The **Performing Artists for AIDS Related Charities (PAARC)** has been working on their 4th Annual Show called **"Some People's Lives"** and will, as usual, be a great show. The performance dates are September 19, 20 and 21. Get your tickets at **Lioness Books.** PAARC organizers **Sonya Cox** and **Robby Becker** opened up the first official **PAARC** office last month, right above **Lioness.** PAARC along with **Mr. Leather Sacramento, Randy Gray,** raised nearly $2000 at the **Rainbow Festival's Pennies for Life** booth. This community is constantly raising money for charity. Pat on the back time. Turn around - pat, pat, Good Job!

Latinos Organized for Cultural Awareness (LOCAS) is having a fundraiser on September 21 at the **Buffalo Club** for the **CARES Clinic.** LOCAS in Spanish means "crazy women." I'm sure that if they are at the new improved **Buffalo Club,** they might get a little wild. The **Buffalo Club** is now full liquor, so watch out for the LOCAS in that place. Give the food at the Buff a try. The burgers may qualify as the best in Sacramento thanks to chef **Christina.**

Other wild women in the news are the **Sacramento Lesbians Creating Change (SLCC).**

SLCC women creating change in Sacramento.

SLCC has scheduled a "T" Dance for the theme of their first dance. T-shirts are the attire required, so dig to the bottom of your drawers a pull out your oldest, funniest or **"Slickest"** shirt and enter the contest. Men are welcome and encouraged to attend the October 4 dance at the Tuesday Club. Rumor has it, the gay men in the community will be able to become **"Honorary Lesbians."**

Speaking of honorary...**Mayor Anne Rudin** will be presenting a certificate to the **"Mayor of Lavender Heights"** on October 11 at **Faces.** The contest put on by the **Rainbow Festival Committee** is another fundraiser to benefit **Hope House** and the **Lambda Center,** while having a whole lot of fun. It seems that all of the groups that had booths at the **Rainbow Festival** get to nominate one person they feel should be the honorary Mayor of the gayest section of the city. To vote, pay $1 for a ballot at **Faces,** the **Mercantile Saloon** or the **Townhouse** and select who you think should be the **Mayor.** By the way, you can vote as many times as you want, so to hell with the democratic vote, this is for money...and fun.

National Coming Out Day is also on **October 11** and the **Sacramento NCOD** committee has big plans to support gay men and women in coming out of the closet. (Some even need to come out to themselves.) No matter how "Out" you are, you can take another step. Getting involved in **NCOD** events is a perfect example. Come to the next meeting September 16 and let's top last year's rainbow flag on the Capitol with something classic.

The **Aurora Music Ensemble** is planning to perform classical music to benefit **Hope House** on October 20 at the Trinity Presbyterian Church. This fine group of talented performers met through **the latest ISSUE's** classified pages and are now doing concerts all over the city.

Have you noticed that everyone is doing fundraisers for **Hope House** but not the **Sacramento AIDS Foundation?** One of the great gays, oh I mean Guys from the AIDS Foundation, **Joe Chase** has quit his job and is now living in Stockton pursuing the life of a writer with a mission. At his going-away party at the Hyatt, **Joe** made up lists of gossip hoping to throw us off the true story of why he left town. Personally, the one I believe is that he is going to be guest starring on **"Designing Women"** so he can "out" Anthony as a bi-sexual. Bye **Joe,** we miss you already.

Joe Chase dials 976..?

One thing that we just can't miss is the **Men's Chorus Hellfire Ball,** October 26th at the Eastern Star Temple at K and 27th Streets. This time it is a fundraiser for the Chorus, but they have been doing a lot of benefits for the community in the past few months. Their **"When I Was Young"** benefit concert for the **CARES clinic** raised more than $2500. Also the **Men's Chorus Entourage** performed at **Metropolitan Community Church's 20th**

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October 4
8 p.m. - 1 a.m.
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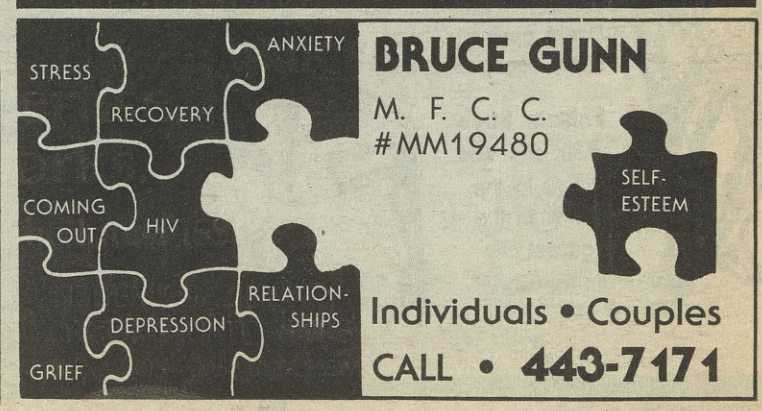

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Anniversary Celebration on September 7.

The **MCC** Anniversary weekend brought the growth of the church and the community into perspective. Twenty years of love and family for gays and lesbians who were told they were not worthy of either. **Pastor Freda Smith** was "roasted" lightly till brown by **Lou Camera, Madeline Reed** and **Kathy Ewing-Connors** in recognition of her 19 years as pastor. Also celebrated that night was the 17th anniversary of **Rev. Freda** and her life-partner **Kathleen.** Freda said she was glad Kathleen wasn't up there roasting her too. I wonder why?

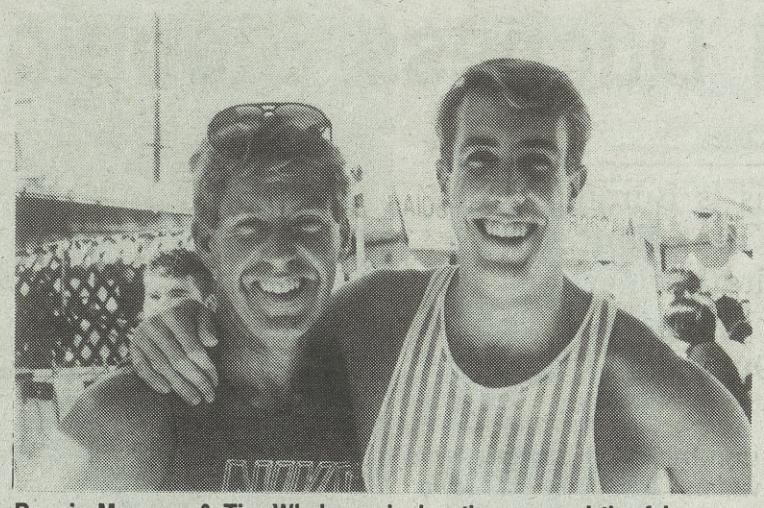
Rev. Freda Smith.

Could it be long term couples know too much about each other? Another couple celebrating an anniversary this month is **Ed Walker** and **Kevin Cohee.** Don't be afraid, if you still like each other after eight years, you'll survive another.

Speaking of fear, **Halloween** is creeping up quickly and **Jolanne Tierney** of **Jammin' Productions** is planning a **Clean and Sober Halloween Dance** for October 25 at the YWCA. Jo is also planning a formal Christmas dance for December 6. Isn't there another formal dance planned around that time? Hmmm, nah.

People doing the birthday dance this month are writer, artist, musician **P.J. Dunker,** bookkeeper extraordinaire **Cher Pearson,** photographer **Becca King,** man about town **Dan Palomino,** Diana Ross memorabilia mogul **Joseph Martinez** and Mr. Style himself, **Dennis Mangers.**

Dennis Mangers and **Michael Himovitz** were seen showing off their "Sacramento Style" in the August issue of Sacramento Magazine. There is just no stopping these two trend setters when it comes to being on top of the "who's who" list in the city.



Dennis Mangers & Tim Whalen enjoying the sun and the fair.

Donna Yutzy is another one who is hard to keep down. She left the very part-time position of executive director of the **Lambda Center** to take a full-time job at the **California Association of AIDS Agencies** as a consultant.

Now **Jake Steuble** is filling the shoes of executive director at the Center. **Jake** not only contributes his time to the Center but also to the **Sacramento AIDS Foundation** and the **Rainbow Real Estate Professionals.** The **Rainbow Real Estate Professionals** organization got a bit of recognition last month during a feature on the Channel 3 news. **Vicki Pfingst, Jake,** and **Sally Kelley** all spoke on the benefits of working with gay sensitive professionals when making the most important investment in your life.

Sometimes the most important investment in your life is time, and the people you spend it with have got to be the best.

Vicki Pfingst.

Last month we left you wondering who **Dell Richards** brought home with her from Idaho and the mystery woman is a gem. **Andrea Jackson** is a writer and playwright whose one-act play "Crossroads" was performed at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival.

So until next month spend the most valuable asset, with those you love and don't forget to take your next step on **National Coming Out Day,** October 11.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Duke and Duchess Stepping Down and Out

by **Kevin Cohee**

Move over "Paris Is Burning," the Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire has been throwing drag balls for the past 18 years and the August 24th Ducal Ball was one of its best.

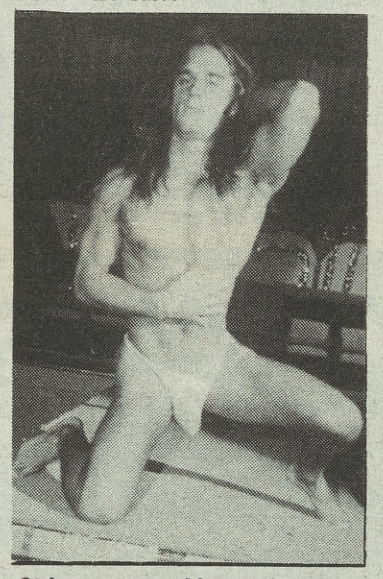
Nearly 180 people attended the Ducal Ball to bid farewell to Duke XI Gene and Duchess XI Racine, after their year representing the Court. More than half of the audience were visitors from out of town, some as far away as Reno and San Jose.

The Duke and Duchess represent the Court, second only to the titles of Emperor and Empress. Originally conceived to assist the Emperor and Empress, this year may be the last that these positions are filled because no one campaigned to fill them.

Duke Gene & Duchess Racine.

Three candidates applied to campaign for the title of Duchess and two applied for the title of Duke, but out of these five people interested in running, only one candidate was "approved" by the board of directors. (He later withdrew his candidacy for "personal reasons.")

According to President of the Board Doug Shafer, "We want candidates with working knowledge of the organization." He gave an example that one candidate for Duchess didn't know the correct name of the organization. "We must live by the rules we write" he said.



Stripper struts his stuff.

Even though there were no candidates, the event was exciting. There was a variety of entertainment throughout the evening which began with a live performance by Duke Gene.

Tyra does Diana Ross.

Racine showed off her talents as a lip-sync performer when she did Whitney Houston's "All The Man I Need," and went on to bring Sacramento's drag scene into the 90s by using a choreographed dance troupe to back her up as she performed "My Name's Not Susan."

Shondra, in a hot red dress showing off legs for days, stroked the audience to exhilaration. She was to die for. The evening was also heated up with a couple of male strippers, which gave a nice change of pace.

Tyra, now of Reno, brought us her version of Diana Ross' "Who Is The Boss." This performance was a favorite of the evenings many great acts.

Many were asking "Is it real or Memorex?" when Helena Holiday performed, and all were impressed at the clarity of her true, talented voice.

Climaxing the evening was a performance by Sacramento's own Cher, who worked the audience with her personal touch of "Just Like Jesse James."

A victory seemed unimportant to all of those in attendance including the four Ducal applicants who were not allowed to campaign. The importance of the evening wasn't who won or lost it was who was the most "real."

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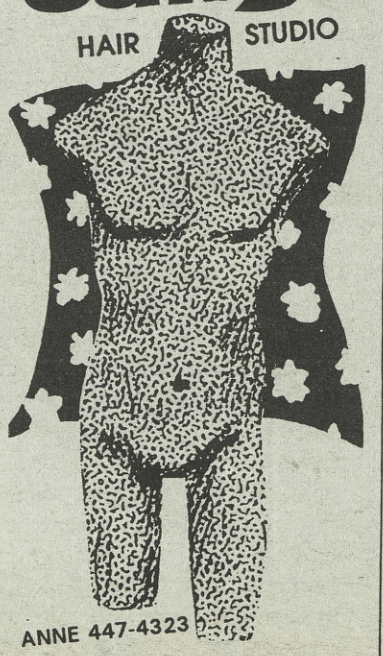

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Europa, Europa

by **Chris Gerald**

Manipulated by history, the young Solomon (Solly) Perel is painfully aware of who he is. The loss of his foreskin is a constant reminder and becomes in the end, the part of him that saves his soul.

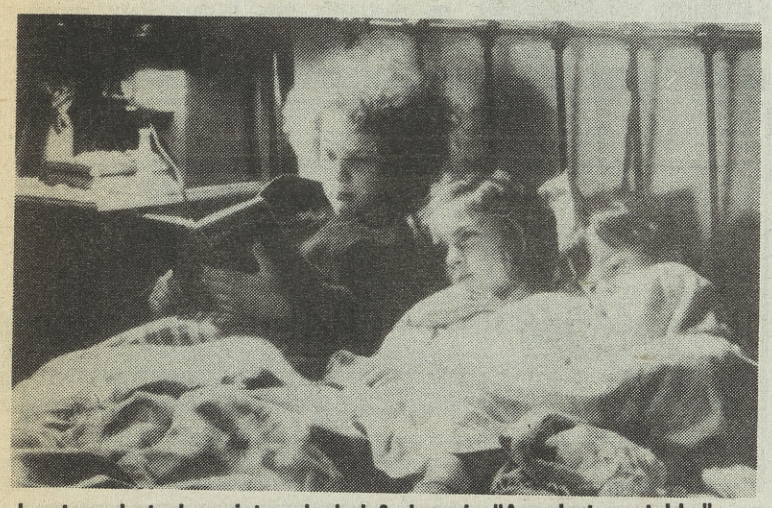
On the eve of Solly's bar mitzvah in 1938, Hitler's troops begin the terrorizing physical persecution of the Jews in Germany. Fleeing with his family to Poland, Solly's life is soon torn apart once more as war breaks out.

Based on a true story, director Agnieszka Holland's well-balanced, poetic film is an odyssey that follows Perel as he embarks on a chameleon's role in an effort to save his own life.

From a Communist school in Russia to the elite academy for the Hitlers Youth, Solly is swept along in a series of ironic situations.

Newcomer Marco Hofschneider is remarkable as he displays Solly's vulnerability, feelings of guilt and quiet inward resistance. Rather than act, he reacts to these situations for a basic and fundamental reason self preservation. Wisely, Holland never allows us to judge this "anti-hero." ⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡

An Angel At My Table



Janet reads to her sisters Isabel & June in "Angel at my table."

She survived eight years in a mental institution, receiving over 200 electric shock treatments, spent years misdiagnosed as a schizophrenic, came close to having a lobotomy but was finally released when a responsive doctor realized that the person he had under his care was in actuality something of a literary genius.

New Zealand's celebrated writer, Janet Frame, lived a phenomenal life. Painfully shy and awkward, with frizzy red hair and a pudgy build, never quite fitting in, she stood on the outskirts always dreaming until the day she was finally able to put these unique insights on paper. Director Jane Campion has taken Frame's three autobiographical volumes and turned them into an unforgettable portrait of a woman's journey to her self. "An Angel at My Table" is a moving, complex portrait of a talent moving from tragedy to triumph. ⚡⚡⚡⚡

⚡⚡⚡⚡⚡ Must see
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⚡⚡⚡ Good
⚡⚡ O.K.
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Take Your Next Step

On National Coming Out Day - October 11

National Coming Out Day (NCOD) is October 11, and the Sacramento committee is planning an advertising campaign, community events and an all-out media blitz to support gay men and women in taking their next step in the coming out process.

Organizers met September 9 at the Townhouse to discuss ideas on how to get the message of NCOD out.

NCOD is designed to encourage lesbians and gay men -- and their families and friends -- to enlarge the circle of people to whom they are "out." When people know who we are, they usually respond with acceptance and support, not prejudice. That's why NCOD is so important. It is a positive, pro-active statement by lesbians and gay men.

In an attempt to reach out to thousands of people in Sacramento, the committee decided to run a full page ad in the Sacramento Bee -- costing nearly $7000. If less is raised the size of the ad will decrease, but an ad will run that depicts the diversity, and depth of who we (the Sacramento gay/lesbian community) are.

National Coming Out Day is October 11, to commemorate the 1987 March on Washington. More than 600,000 gay men and women converged on the nation's capitol to make a statement to the government, the people of the United States and even ourselves that we are not going back into the closet ...ever again.

A few of the events planned to draw attention to NCOD are a September 26 show at Faces by the Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire. A CSUS Coming Out Day celebration on campus on October 11. A flag raising ceremony and press conference at Plaza Park across from City Hall, and a rainbow ribbon campaign all over the city that will peak the curiosity of all who see this symbol of pride.

Volunteers will be sitting outside of local bars on weekends between now and October 11 to sell NCOD sweatshirts, pins and rainbow ribbons. Contributions for the Bee ad will also be taken at the table, with contributors being listed on the ad in return for the support.

To volunteer in the community effort call the latest ISSUE at 737-1088 and be a part of this action to support gay men and women in taking their next step.

BUSH

continued from page 11

message" from the protesters. "Well, I'm not in favor of federally funded needle programs," he said. "I am in favor of the most efficient and effective research possible. I'm in favor of compassion. I'm in favor of behavioral change. Here's a disease where you can control its spread by your own personal behavior."

The march by ACT UP was loud but orderly, with no arrests. Dennis Lyons, a member of the protest group's Maine branch, responded to Bush's behavior remarks; "I think he's implying a value judgement against people who happen to be gay. He talks about behavioral change, but he has yet to institute a nation al AIDS education awareness program for school children."

Bush defended his administration's record of financing research on AIDS, saying the $4 billion budgeted for research, prevention and treatment is "far more" on a per capita basis than the government spends fighting cancer and heart disease. He also described the march as a publicity stunt. "You know why they were here, I know why they were here," he told reporters. "They were here because you all are here. They were here because they could get disproportionate television coverage and to some degree print coverage because the president happened to be at his ancestral home."

When asked why Bush cited behavior and AIDS, a White House official said, "Because it's sexually transmitted...nine out of ten doctors in America will support the presidents position."

The president meanwhile, was more moved by a recent march of the unemployed. "That one hit home because when a family is out of work, that's one I care very much about."

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that GALLERY GUIDE!

Taking an "Art Detour" Down 10th Street

by D. Oldham

Take an "Art Detour" along 10th Street in downtown Sacramento and enjoy the art, the shopping and the cookies!

Your first stop should be the Michael Himovitz Gallery, at 1020 10th Street, to enjoy the work of sculptor Scott Runion. Runion made his Sacramento debut at this gallery and has since shown in Chicago and San Francisco. This exhibition marks the first (and hopefully not the last!) time the artist has included drawings with his wood sculpture. The large figurative drawings capture the tension that is so often present in his sculpture. This will be the only exhibit of Scott Runion's work this season, since he has received a Fullbright Scholarship to pursue his art studies in India.

After you have taken in the show at the Himovitz Gallery, you may want to do a little shopping. The Tini Treasure Chest is located on the same block as the gallery and is owned and run by local artist Susan Gifford. As the name implies, this shop is full of wonderful handmade jewelry and art items. The Tini Treasure Chest is a great source for unique and well received gifts.

On your way to Plaza Park (between J and I streets) stop by Goodie Tuchews and grab one of their famous oatmeal cookies to munch as you stroll the park and view "Chalk It Up Sacramento." The cookie shop organized local business sponsors and artists to "paint" the interior sidewalk around the park during Labor Day weekend as a benefit for Gallery Posada. The result is an amazing array of colorful images painted directly on the sidewalk. "Paintings" ranged from children's drawings and portraits to a city-scape complete with a pink triangle! The paintings will be around while the weather is good, so get out there and see them while they are still fresh and enjoy the "10th Street art detour!"

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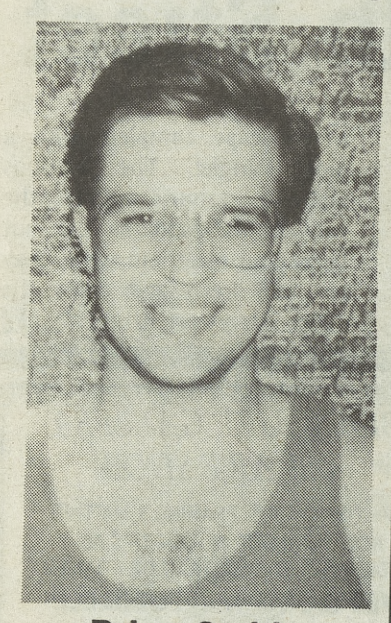
street ? WHYS

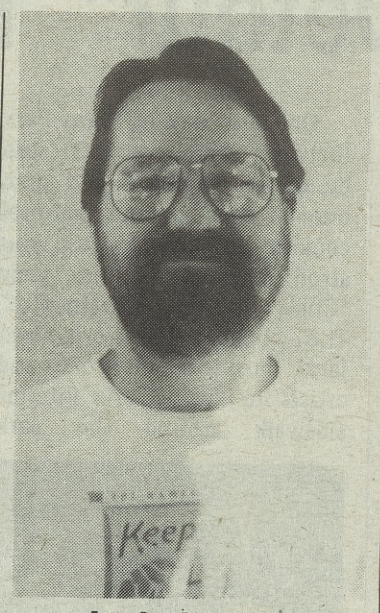
What would you most like to see change?

by Tom Romanotto

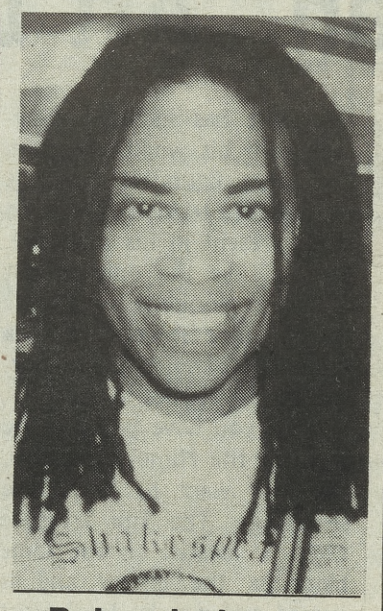


Brian Smith
I think people's attitudes about other people. I think we are all too segregated into little groups, little special interest groups. I think if we could all pull together, our country could be a lot stronger.

Dana Mitchell
I would like to see mainline religions and fundamentalist religions become religions that support people instead of being political pulpits that antagonize and gay bash people.



Jack Sparks
I would like to see the Governor changed and I would like to see the tax structure changed.



Deborah James
The attitudes in Sacramento. I like Sacramento and I like living here but the social climate here seems repressive. I would really like to see that change.

Billie Jean Jones
I would like to change the whole f--king world! I would like to change everybody in it, but since I can't do that I guess I will just work on changing myself.

Un Beau Jour d'Art

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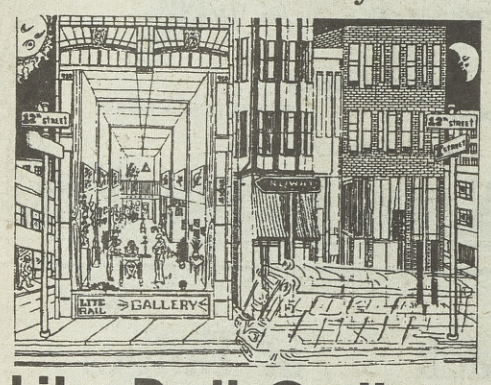

Lite Rail Gallery
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Performing Artists by:
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SERNA

continued from page 7

eral ideals of 1932" saying, "We get criticism that we're creating a second Republican Party." "Those ideals are still true today. But those ideals are something this generation's lost. We can't bring back our coalitions, and now it's labor versus (the people) pushing affirmative action."

"No one speaks for the disenfranchised. The people who talk to us are the employed people. They shout at each other and no one gives a damn. Instead, we put together another advisory committee."

Serna also expressed a "natural alliance" with Sacramento's gay and lesbian community dating back to his days as a 60s activist with the United Farm Workers and with civil rights groups.

"Support of gay rights is a logical extension of the civil rights movement. Your sexual preference is your business. I don't care who you sleep with." He ruefully reminded the group of its lack of endorsement for his candidacy in the 1984 mayoral race against Anne Rudin, and asked that the group reconsider its former position if he decides to run for mayor again, when Rudin decides to step down.

"You haven't always been there for me...And if you don't support me, I'll still be there. But I'll be there for me, not for you, because it's an issue I believe in."

BIOLOGY

continued from page 11

Green a psychiatrist and lawyer at UCLA as quoted in the *San Francisco Sentinel.* Green said there could be wide-ranging cultural and legal ramifications if LeVay's findings are verified.

"From a legal standpoint... groups that are stigmatized and discriminated against receive specific protections, if, among other things the trait for which they're stigmatized is immutable, or unchangeable," Green said. "So if it can be demonstrated that sexual orientation is brain-determined, then legal protections for homosexuals under anti-discrimination statutes could increase."

He also said condemnations of gays by some religious groups might ease "if homosexuality turned out to be a brain variation that is not much different from left handedness."

As the controversy continues the outcome remains to be seen.

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off THE EDGE

A Twisted Way to Come Out at Work

by **Stacy Selmants**

For all of you who adamantly insist that you NEVER IN YOUR ENTIRE LIFE have indulged in the "If I Just Change the Pronouns, Then It's Almost Like Telling the Truth" gambit with co-workers--well, you're lying.

You can 'fess up; we forgive you. Coming out to people at work, often to people you can barely tolerate, can be as painless and carefree as... oh, having your legs waxed. (And you men know how painful THAT can be.) It makes you self-conscious, and can be so painful that you keeping wishing that it would all be over so you could just go home for a high carb snack and reruns of "The Brady Bunch."

But coming out at work (for those of you who are just now emerging from a 20 year long coma, this means: revealing that you are a person of a non-heterosexual nature) is often the last, and hardest step we ever take in our own coming out process. When I say the last step, I am assuming that most of you will not feel the need or compulsion to appear on **Hard Copy** grinning widely, only to blurt out, "Hi there, America! Yes, I DO eat pu**y!" (Lesbians only.)

National Coming Out Day is October 11, and it is a symbolic occasion for all gays and lesbians (yes, even you SACWN members) to peek your little beaks out of your own personal closets. The point is to "take your next step," even if it as benign and nonthreatening a step as admitting you know who Madonna is. We all have reasons, which are often economic, for not revealing our true selves to the world.

Generally, we begin with friends and family. After avoiding the issue for the year that my "best friend" in college would come over for dinner and stay for breakfast ("Umm, wonderful Pop Tarts! **However** do you make them?") I finally had to break the news to my mother, the Suburban Terrorist (you'd be surprised by the vast number of anarchists in Carmichael!), once I began dating a "real" lesbian. Mom, of course--whose main parental goals for me were to have a fabulous career, AND to Marry Well-- had already been primed, and was no fool.

She had already been subjected to the Breadcrumb Method of Discovery, where a teeny little trail of clues, just like a trail of breadcrumbs, had been thoughtfully placed. This was so when the true moment of discovery arrived, she would not become a wildly frothing Tasmanian devil-like creature, and bite off all my limbs to prevent me leaving the house in search of tasty women with bad attitudes.

At the time I was involved with a woman who had, among other accomplishments, gotten a novel published. She had given me a copy of it, and written a mushy note, including a poem, on the flyleaf. I left it prominantly displayed on the coffee table after our ritualistic Easter brunch, for her to "explore."

She did, and after suffering the standard motherly Squirming and Sudden Facial Tics From Unknown Origins (envision a cross between an epileptic attack and a touch of Parkinson's disease tremors) she put the book down and we Faced the Truth, together. Her conclusion -- once I detailed my new involvement in gay political and media groups -- was vintage Suburban Matron, "Well, if you're going to be a homosexual, at least you're an Upwardly Mobile Homosexual. These people you hang out with, they all have good jobs, don't they?"

In the interest of encouraging others to share coming out stories, or simply to just come out a little further, Off the Edge offers a few coming out hints:

1. DON'T assume everyone around you is heterosexual. Oh, sure that buffed babe in your office with no fingernails who plays rugby on the weekends may really be Ms. Heterosexual and Loving It, 1991. But we seriously doubt it. Recently we ran into my former receptionist at a local women's watering hole, and she finally was able to confide that she had seen me in the T shirt contest at Women's Weekend the year before. Did I feel silly. I'd been quietly ogling her from afar, when I could've indulged in friendly flirting In Her Face.

2. DON'T assume that people think YOU are heterosexual. I have known the most screaming of queens and the most diesel of dykes to actually insist that their parents and friends had NO idea of their true identities. Trust me. If half your waking hours are spent either shopping for or wearing women's frocks, size XL, SOME of the people in your life have Gotten A Clue.

3. DON'T assume that if you share the truth, Everyone In Your Life Will Shun You And You Will Be Left with the Vibrantly Exciting Social Life of the Elephant Man. Many people (including former coworkers) did express surprise that I feared their rejection after I came out to them. "Well, we thought about stoning you to death during coffee break," one friend confided, "But you're so funny during staff meetings, that we decided against it."

Of course, you do need to use some discretion. Some people in your life (like your commanding officer, perhaps) WILL react badly. But as this column is written, it is the eve of AB 101 going for a vote on the floor of the state Senate. Legal protection is becoming tantalizingly close. So be as brave as you feel comfortable being, and take another step on October 11.

You'll sleep better on October 12.

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AB101

continued from page 1

"I was also raised with a different kind of God, the God of Abraham and Jacob, the God of compassion. And I came to this county, the land of opportunity, the land of tolerance and freedom. I wasn't guaranteed that I would eventually become a Senator. All I was guaranteed was the opportunity to do my best. And we should not deprive others of their opportunities, so I urge you for your support of this bill."

Opposition to the bill was muted, and besides quiet questions of clarification from Republican Newt Russell from Orange County, the only loud objections were made by the fundamentalist Tim Leslie, who represents parts of Sacramento and Placer counties. Leslie presented a rambling, "Sodom and Gomorrah" discourse on everything from drug abuse to teenage pregnancy to television sitcoms without addressing any components of the bill, until his microphone went dead, and Senator Ralph Dills, at the podium intoned, "Your time is up. I didn't turn off your mike, no matter how much I would have liked to," amid scattered snickers from the fellow Senators.

Leslie was given two reprieves by Roberti, to continue his opposing remarks. (Later, when asked whether Leslie's ten minutes of non sequiturs hurt the opposition's chances, Roberti quipped, "Oh, from him, I've heard much worse.")

Leslie held forth about the fight for good over evil, saying, "We must seek what is pure. I know homosexuality exists, but it's not something we should promote. Many things exist that we should not sanction. If we do so, we will rip the fabric and melt the glue that holds our society together."

The final vote left many, including the bill's author, Terry Friedman very opportunistic, both about support from Wilson, and also about the chances for a successful referendum by the TVC repealing all current protections for gays and lesbians.

"We are encouraged by today's vote," Friedman said, "we think that what happened today will also cause the extremists to think twice. They are using different arguments now. They were using the business community as their targeted supporters, but the business community remains strongly neutral. Now they're trying to find a new cover for their own hate."

When questioned about the amendment to delete the housing provision from the bill, and the last minute drive to reinstate the housing protections (largely prompted by complaints from Roberti's own West Hollywood constituents, and from voters in Milton Marks' San Francisco homebase) Roberti was pragmatic.

"It is another battle for another day. It was smarter to take it out, and it helps us with the pending iniative. It might have still passed in the Senate with the housing segment reinstated. But sometimes we have to accept political realities," Roberti said.

As to when Governor Wilson will make his decision about the future of the bill, Roberti could only offer a guess. "Probably not until October. We really have no modus operandi with Wilson. This is our first experience with Wilson having to deal with a large amount of bills at once. We'll just have to wait and see."

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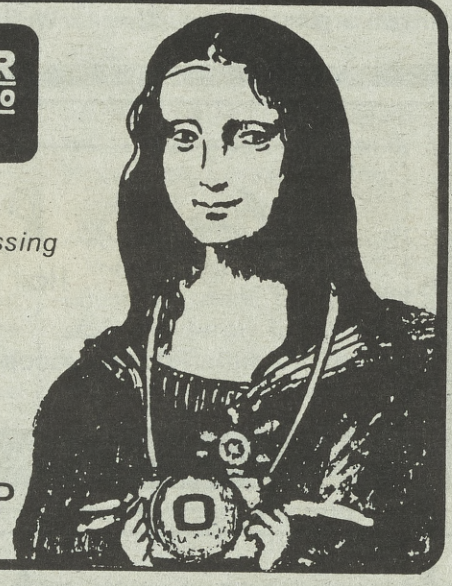

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